

oil with those of other enterprises :
in this case

I have formed an original decision.

Resolutions that are suggested are
formed very
easily indeed. But an effort is required
to make
up our minds when there is no assisting
suggestion.

The effort may be accompanied by a
good deal
of mental perturbation. Many of us
have

experienced the annoying perplexity
that may be

occasioned by the necessity of making
a spontaneous choice—it may be in the

purchase of a
necktie or a wedding present : we

should feel
thankful were there only one article

in stock
which could possibly be selected and

we hail with
relief any suggestion the shopman may

make to
help us to a conclusion. We are

sometimes even
impelled to go by the chance result of

a toss
up." To most men life would be

unendurable
did it require them very frequently to

form conclusions by spontaneous judgment:

they are
content to be led by habit or

suggestion.

When we act upon a suggested
resolution we

cannot of course claim to have
exercised

spontaneity or free will. There is a large
and influential school of thought which denies

that our
behaviour is at any time spontaneous,

asserting
that resolutions which bear all the

appearance
of originality are in reality forced

upon us
and merely give effect to suggestions

that can be
detected if we cast our eyes backward

in search
of them. My determination to rise early
was the
outcome of a casual glance at an
almanac : my
preference for oil shafes was
prompted by a
remark which I chanced to overhear in
a railway
carriage. It is impossible to disprove
this theory.
The action of our brains is limited by
experience .
it is compelled to mould itself upon the
past, and